

MYSTERY CHILD IN HALL MURDER

Graphic Disproves Mrs. Gibson's Tale Of Paternity

(Continued from Page 3)

Mrs. Gibson, she says that her name is Mrs. Jane Easton; that she married a man named Easton and continued to be known as Mrs. Gibson simply because Gibson was her maiden name and because the pig farm was always known as the Gibson place.

Signposts Nemesis

By a strange coincidence, Mrs. Gibson's farm lies off Hamilton Street, which intersects with Easton Avenue. During the many years the "pig woman" has carted her pork to New Brunswick slaughter houses the name "Easton" has been before her eyes on street signposts. For Easton Avenue is the main thoroughfare to this city.

"Oh, yes, Joan is my little daughter, and my husband, Mr. Easton—he's out now—is her father," the "pig woman" told a GRAPHIC correspondent.

Mrs. Gibson, or Mrs. Easton, however, deliberately lied when she made that statement.

Not "Pig Woman's" Child

The pretty little girl, who the "pig woman" says is 4, and who is probably just a bit older, is the daughter of neither Mrs. Gibson nor her husband, Easton.

Dr. J. H. Cooper of East Millstone, a community not far from Middleburgh, the section in which the Gibson farm is located, was Mrs. Gibson's physician during the period covered by the original Hall-Mills investigation in 1922. He also attended her for a year and a half before that time.

Dr. Cooper flatly declared that Mrs. Gibson, during the period he was her physician, and it was then that Joan Easton was born, never was pregnant. That she never, on any of the occasions he examined her, gave signs that she was to become a mother.

Gives Lie to Mrs. Gibson

More than that, the keen old gentleman who cares for the sick for miles around the "pig woman's" farm, further confirmed the GRAPHIC'S belief that little Joan was not Mrs. Gibson's daughter by stating that the child appeared at the Gibson farm house after he had started to call there. "I had never noticed the little one there," Dr. Cooper said, "and then one day she had slipped in, brought from I don't know where, and afterwards I heard that Jane Gibson claimed her as her own daughter."

No Record of Birth

Perusal of the birth records as listed by Assessor John L. Totten of the township of Franklin, which includes Middleburgh, reveals no record of a daughter born to Mrs. Gibson in the only years tabulated, 1920 to the present date.

Additional proof, not ironclad, indeed, but fairly strong, that Joan Easton is not the daughter of Mrs. Gibson is seen in the fact that the "pig woman" has one other child, William Easton, who, she says, is 24 years old. Neighbors declare that the young man is nearer 30, however.

Mrs. Gibson refuses to say whether she had other children between William Easton and Joan Easton, although it is reported that she has a daughter about her son's age. This would mean that the woman had two children and then no offspring until Joan's birth, twenty years later.

Paternity Clouded

It is possible, of course, that little Joan is the daughter of William Easton, Mrs. Gibson's son, or of the reported adult daughter of the Pig Woman.

The statements of Dr. Cooper, however, virtually disprove either of these suppositions.

According to the fine, old phy-



Alex. Simpson



Barbara Tough



Mrs. Jane Gibson



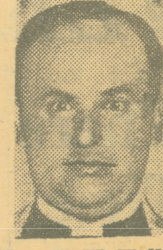
Charlotte Mills



James Mills



Mrs. Eleanor Mills



Rev. E. W. Hall



Mrs. Frances Hall

THESE EIGHT PERSONS are the principals in the newly re-opened Hall-Mills murder investigation which state Senator Alexander Simpson is pressing.

sician, whose shrewdness is only surpassed by his kindness, William Easton, familiarly known as Killie, was "girl shy," appeared to wish to avoid women and was unmarried at the time Joan Easton was born.

Also, according to Dr. Cooper, at the time Joan came to the Gibson farmhouse there was no sign of a married daughter or Mrs. Gibson about the place.

The "pig woman," it has been learned from other sources than the physician, confined deeply in Dr. Cooper.

On the question of the child, however, and the physician confirms this, Mrs. Gibson never uttered a word. On little Joan, whose infant gurgles brought a clean breath of fragrance to the sordid surroundings, the "pig woman" was never strangely silent.

Significant Arrival

To the best of Dr. Cooper's memory, little Joan came to the Gibson home about the time the bodies of the Rev. Edward W. Hall and Mrs. Eleanor Mills, his attractive choir singer, were found under the crab apple tree on the old Phillips farm.

Mrs. Nellie Lo Russell, the colored woman, who testified Mrs. Gibson was at her home when the "pig woman" swore she was at the scene of the murder, places the time of Joan's arrival at about the same period, probably, she says, a short time later.

"Mrs. Gibson tells a most convincing and complete story. She is not capable of lying or imaginative flights of fancy. She accounts of her every move the night of the tragedy, tells her story simply and convincingly and will make an excellent witness which no real jury can disbelieve."

This is the report Special Prosecutor Simpson carries to Gov. Moore today after the prosecutor's examinations of the "pig woman" on her farm last night.

Mrs. Mills's Throat Slashed?

Squarely against this confident prediction of the governor's special prosecutor, however, stands Mrs. Gibson's falsehood concerning little Joan.

Strange reports of why the lovely child was placed in the Gibson home are whispered about in certain sections and there are those who would delve deeply into her parentage in any investigation of the Hall-Mills case.

These investigators would have authorities probe the report that Mrs. Mills's throat was slashed by a "pig-sticker."

In connection with this phase of the case the statement of Mrs. Russell, the negress, to The GRAPHIC today is declared important.

Mrs. Russell told the GRAPHIC reporter that Mrs. Gibson often practiced shooting at a mark with Mr. and Mrs. Louis Blackwell, farmers, who live near the Russell and Gibson homes.

Pig Woman Pistol Shot

Blackwell, a colored man, would place a can on the top of a post and he, with his wife and Mrs. Gibson, would draw back a few paces and begin shooting.

Mrs. Gibson's physician is not inclined to agree with Senator Simpson's assertion that the Pig Woman is not capable of "imaginative flights of fancy."

In connection with Dr. Cooper's opinion in this instance it must be made clear that he in no way sought to take issue with the

special prosecutor. In fact the physician did not have Senator Simpson's statement before him at the time.

Mystery in Her Past

He does, however, believe that back of Jane Gibson's slovenly appearance—the dirty Panama hat, the "sailed dresse," the run-down cloth shoes—there is an intelligence which has been overlooked by investigators.

Somewhere, back in the days before she dealt in swine, there was something in Jane Gibson which never would be looked for in a woman of her occupation, the doctor believes.

And The GRAPHIC reporter, conversing with the "pig woman" in the midst of her squalor, found the same thing.

Jane Gibson is far from stupid. Her English is not faultless, perhaps, but at times she uses lan-

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START WAR OVER DOGS

Dog owners and officials of Spring Lake, N. J., are at war. Unless officials discontinue their campaign against pets, dog owners have threatened to boycott officials who are owners of stores.

SPIDER'S BITE KILLS MAN

Carl Eckhardt, an auto mechanic of Toms River, N. J., is dead, following a bite of a spider on his left ankle. The spider climbed up his shoe and bit him through his sock.

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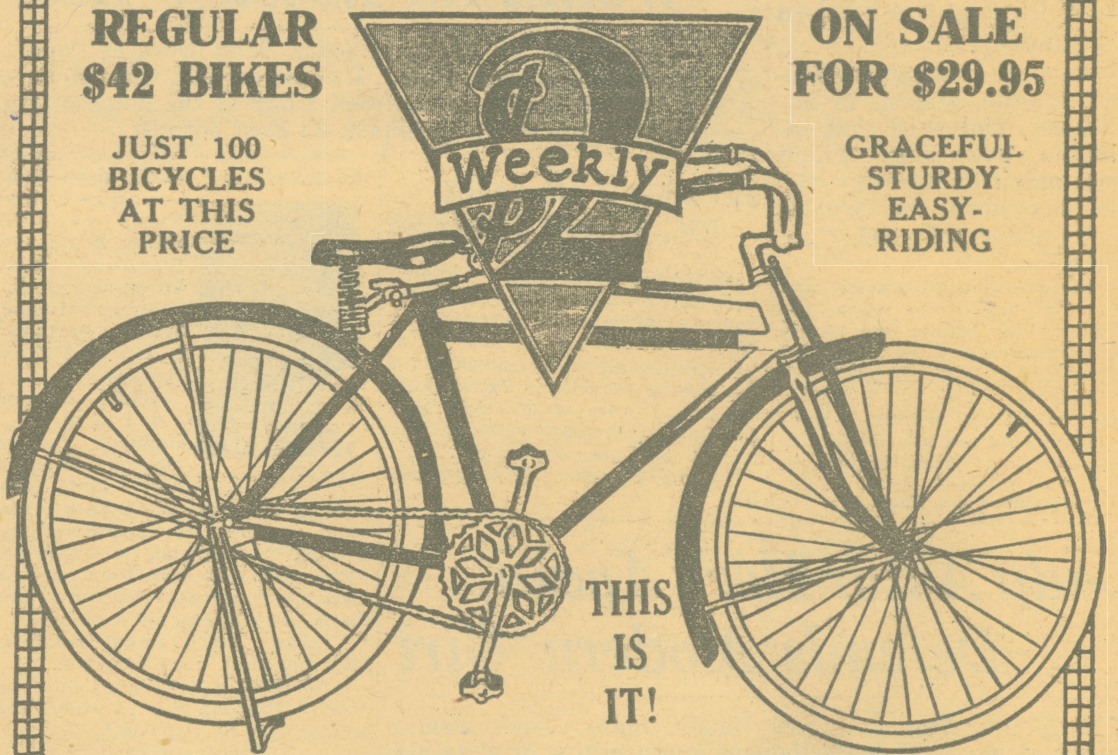
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